(a) the number of complaints received regarding supply of sub-standard Coal by the Coal India Ltd. to the consumers of Gujarat State during 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and so far in 1994-95.

(b) the number of complaints redressed during the above periid;

(c) the amount of compensation paid during the same period; and

(d) the action taken against the erring personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) the year-wise number of complaints with specific dttails regarding supply of sub-standard coal, received from the consumers of Gujarat are as follows:—

Year	Number of Complaints
1991-92	111
1992-93	43
1993-94	56
1994-95 *(Provisional)	6

*upto 20-7-94 the date of report by CIL.

(b) CIL have informed that all the complaints are examined on merits and wherever grade slippages are established the consumer is charged only for the actual grade of supply.

(c) According to Coal India Ltd. supply of coal and its payment by the major consuming sectors such as power plants, cement, fertilizers etc. are regulated by joint sampling arrangements with these sectors. Bills are raised accordingly and wherever applicable, debit notes are issued for adjustments.

(d) Coal being heterogenous material mined from the earths crust, deviation in quality cannot be fully ruled out, though numerous measures have been taken|are being taken to arrest slippages of grades. However, on receipt of complaints from the consumes including from the consumers from Gujarat, enquiries are made and appropriate action taken accordingly for ensuring the quality of coal supplies. Action against individuals is also taken wherever warranted.

Investment in coal sector

25. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that during the last two decades the investment in coal sector grew from Rs. 370 crore to Rs. 13,132 crore and coal production rose from 77 million tonne in 1973-74 to 238 million tonne in 1992-93;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite an increase in the production the coal supplies have been very unreliable and its quality is deteriorating despite 20 per cent rise in its prices;

(c) if so, the reasons for its poor quality and erratic supply; and

(d) the steps contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The coal production rose from a level of 78.17 million tonnes in 1973-74 to 238.11 million tonnes in 1992-93. The cumulative investment in both CIL (since nationalisation) and SCCL (during the last two decades) have been of the order of Rs. 19,098.40 crores.

(b) It is not a fact that despite an increase in production, coal supply has been unreliable and its quality has deteriorated. On the other hand, the demand satisfaction has been growing progressively and in the year 1993-94, 97 per cent of the sectoral demand of

consumers was fulfilled. The quality of coal supply has also shown progressive improvement due to several steps undertaken to improve the quality.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The steps taken to improve coal supplies are as follows:—

(1) Close coordination is being maintained with Railways on a day-today basis to ensure steady supply of coal to different sectors.

(2) The stock level in various power houses are being monitored closely on a day-to-day basis.

(3) The coal supply by different modes such as rail, road, MGR Belt rope Ways etc. are regulated through a well laid out and transparent system.

In order to improve coal quality, the following steps have been taken;

(i) Installation of CHPs and feeder breakers to eliminate complaints of oversized coal.

(ii) Installation of Electronic weighbridges.

(iii) Posting of one executive at each siding responsible for loading of good quality coal.

(iv) Benching in opencast mines.

(v) Selective blasting for fragmentation of coal.

(vi) Sampling/analysis of coal despatched by Public Analyst.

(vii) Joint sampling by major consumers like cement, fertiliser, loco and steel is made at loading end to assess the quality of despatches.

Use of Chinese "Long-Wall" Technology in undesground mines

26. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem published in the 'Financial Express' dated the 9th July, 1994 that the Coal India Limited, Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, Singrauli Coal Complex are going to use Chinese "Long-Wall" technology to increase safety conditions in their underground mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating whether the Centre has sanctioned the above project;

(c) whether the country expects to produce around 550 million tonnes of coal in the next century which would liable it to comrete against coontries like Australia, Indonesia and South Africa; and

(d) if so, the details therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Arising from bilateral discussions held with Chinese authorities during January last, China have offered for supply of longwall equipment alongwith technology of management of hard roof conditions in some of the underground mines of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. The technology offered aims at increasing coal production and safety standards in such underground mines.

(b) Government have approved import of two packages of longwall equipment from China for Padmavati Khani underground Project of Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.

(c) and (d) Tentative estimates of energy demand scenario indicate the coal demand in the country in the year 2010 AD as 550 million tonnes per annum.

Abolition of compulsory pre-shipment inspection of export products

27. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to abolish compulsory pre-shipment inspection of export products;